

Select Board, March 24th, 2014

**Town of Castleton
Select Board Meeting
Minutes of March 24th, 2014
Castleton Town Offices**

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Hale, Joe Bruno, Thomas Ettori, Bob Spaulding, Richard Combs

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Charles Jacien, See attached list

The meeting called to order at 7:00 by Chairman J. Bruno with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes for Approval-February 24th, 2014 (2 sets) and March 6th, 2014

MOTION

Motion to approve the minutes of February 24th, 2014 and March 6th, 2014 by J. Hale. Seconded by B. Spaulding. All in favor. So voted.

Warrants for Approval

MOTION

B. Spaulding made a motion to approve warrant 0324R for \$127.50, 0324 for \$109,021.50; 0320 for \$1,587,778.70; 0313 for \$12,515.73; 0320P for \$13,524.62; and 0313P for \$12,109.95. Seconded by T. Ettori. All in favor. So voted.

MOTION

B. Spaulding made a motion to approve warrant 0321.1P for \$561.41 and 0313.1P for \$563.23. Seconded by T. Ettori. R. Combs recused himself. All in favor. So voted.

Lister's Request-Approval of State Appeal-Beth Cornwall-Friese Property

N. Trudo stated that last Tuesday, there was a state hearing to grieve the value of the Cornwall-Friese property on Grandpa's Knob. The state appraiser suggested trying to come to an agreement. She stated that an agreement was reached with \$463,100 as the final value of the land, which amounts to about a \$1000 reduction in taxes per year. There would be no refund of prior tax years.

MOTION

Motion to approve the lister's request regarding Parcel 06-01-00015-2, the Cornwall-Friese living trust property, to reduce the value of the land from \$515,800 for \$463,100, a reduction of \$52,700 by J. Hale. Seconded by B. Spaulding. All in favor. So voted.

Request to address the Board—Maryann Jakubowski

M. Jakubowski stated that she wanted to address the deer head in 556. She stated that it was shot by Jack Towers in 1910. She then recounted the story of her relationship with the Towers' family, stating she felt responsibility for the deer head. She stated that she wants to get it refurbished, and would like to start a committee to work on it to bring the town together.

Chairman J. Bruno stated that he has had a Castleton resident offer \$100 to help defray the cost. He stated that he has contacted a taxidermist and would like to help M. Jakubowski with the project. He stated that it will be a lengthy process because the cape cannot be restored. He also said that he would like it scored and put in the record books. He stated that he has sent in a deposit to the taxidermist. He also stated that there are other items in the old town office that he is concerned about getting out, such as a plaque from Meadowbrook School and a map.

Reconsideration of Taggart Petition

MOTION

T. Ettori made a motion to reconsider the Taggart petition for discussion. Seconded by B. Spalding.

Chairman J. Bruno stated that he does have a copy of the original agreement between Castleton and Hubbardton. He stated that he feels F. Taggart has put a lot of effort into the petition and the least the board can do is give him the opportunity to get the voice of the town to possibly open up a discussion with the school board.

N. Trudo stated that the school board was asked to consider this about 4 years ago. A feasibility study was done that stated it would cost over \$1 million dollars to move two grades to the elementary school, which included \$250,000 for a ball field. She stated that at the time, parents were largely against it. She also feels that the project estimation was set up to fail and was one sided.

D. Folsom voice support for saving money by moving the schools under one roof.

T. Spangenburg, chair of the school district, stated that the board has taken the petition under advisement and sought legal counsel, who advised them that school boards do not accept petitions. However, there is an open budget review process starting in November. He stated that F. Taggart was invited to participate in this process but did not. He stated that the school budget is already passed for the year, and this is strictly a matter for the school board. He said that the Select Board does not have authority to warn this. He did state that input is welcomed from anyone during the budget process.

Chairman J. Bruno asked where someone would petition on this issue. T. Spangenburg responded no where.

K. Thornblade stated that the school is not just a Castleton school, but Hubbardton would need input as well. She also stated that it seems like a frivolous vote unless it is done at the time of a primary.

T. Smith, vice chair of the school board, stated that the board is aware of and concerned with the cost of education. He stated that they always encourage people to attend monthly meetings of the school board. He does not feel it is the Select Boards responsibility or place to pursue this issue.

Chairman J. Bruno stated that he hope more people would get involved.

T. Spangenburg suggested showing up to budget meetings in November to discuss issues driving school costs up.

F. Taggart stated that he was at the meeting during the feasibility study and that he would like to see that on record. He also state that the feasibility study was not about potential savings from closing the school.

Select Board, March 24th, 2014

G. Trudo stated that he feels F. Taggart's petition is legal and should be reconsidered.

Chairman J. Bruno stated that more research needs to be done.

MOTION

Motion to table the issue by B. Spaulding. Seconded by R. Combs.

D. Combs asked the school board to provide copies of the feasibility study and correspondence between the board and F. Taggart.

All in favor. So voted.

Police Department Update

Chief Sherwin stated that a full time position has been filled by M. Hoffman who is currently serving as a part time officer. The position will be effective April 21st. He stated that he also sent a proposal to the town manager to have the board create a temporary position of up to a year for an Administrative Officer who would take over as the interim chief. He stated that he recommends S. Dechen. He also asked the board to reconsider resurrecting the Sargent position.

Introduction-Recreation Director-Amy Clapp

A. Clapp introduced herself and outlined a few goals. She stated that she wants to bring the program together by getting one way for people to find out about all the programs. She also wants to grow programming, as well as design a webpage. She stated she is a full time science teacher in Salisbury, and worked for the Shelburne Rec Department as well as in Vail, Colorado. She lives in Hubbardton.

Chairman J. Bruno requested that she update the board in writing quarterly.

Appointment- Recreation Commission, Jeff Hayes

This issue was moved to the next meeting.

Request for Approval-1st Class Liquor License with Outside Consumption

MOTION

R. Combs made a motion to approve the 1st class liquor license with outside consumption for Castleton Pizza and Deli Inc (dba. Castleton Pizza and Deli/Blue Cat), Castleton Pizza and Deli Inc. (dba Birdseye Diner), and Prospect Point Golf Club LLC. Seconded by T. Ettori. All in favor. So voted.

Request for Approval- Second Class Liquor License

MOTION

Motion to approve the second class liquor license for Sodexo Vermont, Inc @Castleton State College and Sunrise Family Restaurant, LLC by R. Combs. Seconded by T. Ettori. All in favor. So voted.

Request for Approval-Tobacco Licenses

MOTION

Motion to approve the tobacco licenses for Castleton Village Store, Inc., Mobell, LLC (dba Harbor View

Select Board, March 24th, 2014

General Store), Midway Oil Corp, and Prunier's Market by R. Combs. Seconded by T. Ettori. All in favor. So voted.

Citizens' Concerns

P. Graziano asked about the warrant that was approved for over \$1 million. Chairman J. Bruno stated that was a payment for schools.

L. Melendi stated that he was responding to a question posed by B. Spaulding at the last meeting regarding why so many young people are leaving the state. He stated that Vermont is not a friendly state for business and there are no job opportunities as well as increasing crime.

D. Folsom agreed, stating it is difficult to afford living in Vermont due to high taxes.

Manager's Update

Route 30 Bridge: There is some concern over the clearance for the railroad. The manager attended an RRPC meeting, where it was stated that 21 ½ feet will accommodate a double decker non-electrified train. The manager will attend the Transportation Council meeting on the 24th of next month.

Expanding the Water District: This would require a district wide vote. There is also the issue of who would pay. Fire District 3 did not see it as feasible.

Chairman J. Bruno suggested just running service to the sewer plant.

Weather Event: The highway crew did great managing this. Additional salt and sand has been delivered.

Park and Ride- The town did get a grant for solar lighting. This would include 4 lights that are totally paid for through grant money. Ongoing maintenance requires replacing the batteries every five years.

JAMAC Property: The deed is in Ted Parisi's office. There are some language issues to revise. He will be working with JAMAC lawyer this week.

556 Main Street: Staff will be going in and marking what needs to be moved, thrown away, etc. Everything will follow the Claypoint cleaning protocol.

K. Thornblade stated that she has been in touch with a company that can microfilm the grand list. She stated that there will likely be many items that can be thrown away all together.

Other Business-Highway Postings

MOTION

Motion to approve the posting of roads as listed on the sheet effective 3-25-14 by T. Ettori. Seconded by B. Spaulding. All in favor. So voted.

Select Board Concerns

J. Hale stated he would like to hear from the lister's regarding the reappraisal.

T. Ettori stated that he talked with S. Stevens, who stated that his guys could go in and at least move items to the first floor of 556. He also stated the pre-town meeting, he was accused of spending

Select Board, March 24th, 2014

\$60,000 over budget on the 556 project. He stated that is not true and that the current board will have to decide how to pay for it.

B. Spaulding expressed concern about liability issues with people going into 556. He also asked who the acting road commissioner is. Town Manager Jacien stated that he is, then H. Goyette.

Chairman J. Bruno presented a range of pay for non-union positions. Town Manager Jacien stated that they are in process of updating the personnel policy to include annual evaluations. He stated that this also allows elected officials to know their salary range. J. Hale asked if a position is currently being paid less than the range, if they will automatically get a raise. Town Manager Jacien said yes, but there is only one instance of that.

T. Ettori stated that there is no money in the budget for raises. He suggested waiting until the new policy is in place.

Chairman J. Bruno asked if the board would agree to allow the town clerk to give her assistant a raise provided she does not go over budget.

K. Thornblade stated that she was told it was in her power as long as she stays within the budget. Town Manager Jacien stated that it is the manager who makes salary decisions. He stated he is asking for a range so that he can administer payroll.

Chairman J. Bruno stated that he would need to see something in writing regarding who has the authority to give the assistant town clerk a raise. K. Thornblade stated that when it does go through, she wants it to be retroactive to January 15th or 22nd.

R. Combs asked about Act 250 on the JAMAC property. Town Manager Jacien stated that the civil engineer had questions for J. Berryhill regarding a landscape plan and a few environmental issues.

Any Other Comments

F. Taggart asked if the driveway with the new fire station will be shared by the medical center. Chairman J. Bruno stated that will be discussed.

F. Taggart brought up maintaining the walking paths.

Executive Session - Personnel, Real Estate or Legal (if necessary)

MOTION

Motion to enter executive session regarding legal, personnel, and real estate with the board to include the Town Manager & Police Chief by J. Hale. Seconded by R. Combs. All in favor. So voted. The board entered executive session at 9:15 P.M.

MOTION

Motion to come out of executive session by J. Hale. Seconded by R. Combs. All in favor. So voted. The board came out of executive session at 9:45 P.M.

MOTION

Motion to approve S. Dechen as the Interim Chief by J. Hale. Seconded by R. Combs. All in favor. So voted.

Select Board, March 24th, 2014

Adjournment:

MOTION

Motion to adjourn by J. Hale. Seconded by R. Combs. All in favor. So voted.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 P.M.

Submitted by Brittany Gilman

DRAFT